Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF June 5 TO June 9, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	May			
Alberta	161	1.9%	24.8%	The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers. All of the provinces, except Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, rose in May. Alberta had the second highest increase behind P.E.I.
Canada	169	1.2%	7.1%	
Housing Starts	May			
Alberta – Urban	25,300	18.8%	69.8%	Alberta housing starts in May rose by 18.8% from April. This is a sharp contrast with the rest of Canada where housing starts fell 10.6% led by a 24.7% decline in Ontario caused by a strike in Toronto. Year-to-date, urban housing starts are up 19.5% in Alberta, compared to 8.7% for Canada.
Canada – Urban	142,100	-10.4%	-2.9%	
Building Permits ($ millions)	April			
Alberta	440.0	-12.5%	35.7%	Building permits, an indicator of investment intentions, fell by 12.5% in Alberta in April because of sharp declines in institutional and industrial permits. Alberta's residential sector had the largest dollar value ($256 million) increase of the provinces. This was a result of the strength of intentions in single family dwellings.
Canada	2,923.2	-8.9%	4.4%	
Industrial Capacity Utilization Rate	1Q, 2000 87.6%	1.1% [a]	4.3% [b]	In 1Q, 2000, the utilization of Canada's industrial capacity rose by 1.1 percentage points from the fourth quarter, surpassing the 1987-88 expansion (86.8%). This represents the sixth straight quarter that industries have raised their capacity utilization.

[a] From 4Q, 1999
[b] From 1Q,1999